

# News from Crawfordsville

by BILLIE JO ROSE

## CRAWFORDSVILLE LIONS CLUB

The Crawfordsville Lions Club met Monday evening, June 9, 2025 for a pizza supper at the Crawfordsville Community Room with eleven members present.

President Scott Davis called the meeting to order leading the Pledge of Allegiance and Lion Larry Fletcher offered prayer.

Following the meal, the minutes of the May 12, 2025 meeting given by Secretary Billie Jo Rose were approved as read. Treasurer Randy Finke gave his report.

Old Business: Lion Rose reported on the recent, June 2 Blood Drive. 42 people presented and 32 units of whole blood were collected and 8 from double reds. There were six deferrals. All in all, a good day!

July 5th. Fun Days were discussed once again and the Lions will be serving a lunch of pork burgers, baked beans and chips and drinks from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Fire Station. All for a free-will offering. Since Lion Finke will be out of town until July 3rd. he will let someone know if there is anything needed to be picked up.

New Business: It was announced that Club officers are still needed

for the District and they will be appointing a new District Governor for District 9SE at a cabinet meeting June 21. It was also mentioned that the Club's Directors need to meet to decide on some Club Award recipients.

Thank you notes were read from Lara H and Camp Courageous for our club's contributions.

The Fall Pancake Breakfast was discussed and it will be held Saturday, September 13 at the Crawfordsville Fire Department.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned and Taitwister Finke entertained with various trivia facts.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The United Church of Crawfordsville and the Ainsworth Community Church will be having Vacation Bible School at the United Church of Crawfordsville, July 7 through July 10 from 5-7:30 p.m. The theme this year is "Let's TACO 'bout Jesus!" Everyone 3-12 years of age is invited.

## FUN DAY ACTIVITIES

The Crawfordsville Community Club invites everyone to come help celebrate Crawfordsville Fun Days July 5, 2025.

Following is a list of events. All events will take place in and in front of the Fire Station. Any questions may be directed to crawfordsvillecommunityclub@gmail.com or message them on Facebook Messenger.

**July 5th. Schedule:**  
6-9 a.m.: Fire Department: Biscuits and Gravy  
7 a.m. - Noon: Car, Truck, Tractor and Garden Tractor Show, also Kids Corn Play Pit  
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.: J.P. Sips and DeLovely's Delicious Mini Donuts  
9:30 a.m.: Parade Line -Up at School  
10 a.m.: Parade sponsored by PEOPLES SAVINGS BANK  
10:30 a.m.: Frozen Shirt Contest (During set up of water fights)  
10:45 a.m.: Firemen's Water Fights (Double Elimination)  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Face Painting, Pony Rides sponsored by McElhinney Livestock and Lions Club Lunch  
11:30 a.m.: Sign up for Pedal Pull  
Noon: Ohana Pedal Pullers Kids Pedal Pull  
1 p.m.: Slow Tractor/Vehicle Race  
4 p.m.-7 p.m. Fish Fry at the United Church of Crawfordsville



The Cotter alumni banquet was held on Friday, June 13th. There are a total of 24 surviving graduates and here are 10 of them (from left to right) - Back Row: Ronnie VanAuken; Sharon Peters Maple; Janet Thomas Pretz; Gary Murphy

Front Row: Keith Murphy, Francis Owens Batterson, Sadie Peters Gevock, Bebe Fullerton McFarland, Dick Hendrickson, and Richard Jones.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

E-mail us your photos and details from your family gatherings, vacations, etc. . . . We would love to have you as a part of the next

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## Louisa County Clubs, Meetings and Chapter News

### CJ COMMUNITY CLUB

May 15, 2025  
Members Present: 19 members and 1 guest; Mary Wellington, volunteer at Columbus Discoveries.  
Invocation: Earlene Lekwa  
Treasurers Report: Ron sent the treasurers report from April 14, 2025 through May 12, 2025. Expenses totaled \$910.00. Income totaled \$128.00  
Columbus Day fund balance = \$5,691.67  
Community Club fund balance: \$8,978.06.  
Total account balance = \$14,669.73.

Minutes: Minutes and Treasurer's report were approved as read.  
Community Reports: City of CJ: Detour for work on Hwy. 92 begins June 2nd through late September.  
Louisa County Extension: LDG  
Community Visioning meeting soon to discuss feedback from the community.  
Walk with Ease program finished up last week at Colonial Manor.  
Soccer for Success starts middle of June in Wapello and CJ.  
Lions Club: Breakfast

meal Memorial Day weekend – funds will be used to support eye exams and eyeglasses for children in need at CCSD.

Columbus Discoveries: lots of new items in the store. 2 \$1,000 scholarships given to CJ high school seniors.

Washington State Bank: New ag lender hired for Washington office.

LULAC: \$7,000 in scholarships given away at Columbus High School.

Other business: Columbus Day planning committee meeting 05/29 at 5:30P at Bard Coffee Shop. Band has been reserved for Columbus Day event. Kenan made a motion to approve paying \$600 for tax filing for non profit application. Cori Milan seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Kasey K. Heindel  
Secretary

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## ON-GOING COUNTY INVESTIGATION

by David C. Nuam, whose mailing address is at 1101 5th Avenue, Columbus Junction. Nuam is also listed as a contract buyer for a four and a half-acre site adjacent to the five-acre rural Columbus Junction property on Q Avenue.

A June 17 report in the Cedar Rapids Gazette indicated more than 40 Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) officers were brought in from throughout the state to assist in the operation, which resulted in 88 children being placed into protective custody.

The children were eventually transported to the Wapello Methodist Church where they met with DHHS officials and released to parents, guardians, foster care or other state child protection officials.

In his June 20 email, Marquardt reported all the children had now been returned to their parents.

According to the sheriff's department's original June 16 press release and various published articles, the children had been attending the Shekinah Glory Camp and Kingdom Ministry of Rehab and Recreation.

The Gazette article reported Marquardt has said the ministry and camp were established in Louisa County in

2018. The article went on to report the ministry is a rehabilitation center to help members of the Burmese population with substance abuse problems.

A Des Moines Register article reported the Kingdom Ministry of Rehab and Recreation's website identified its mission is "Assisting individuals in breaking free from addiction through God's Word, offering food and shelter to those in need, and supporting individuals during fasting and prayer."

The Register article also reported the camp was to have run from June 8 to June 29. However, that was cut short after the law enforcement action, which was reportedly set in motion by one of the camp attendees.

A June 16 story filed by the Quad Cities' KWQC broadcast station, reported that Victor Bawi, the son of a minister at the church, said a 15-year-old from Texas called authorities because he did not want to be there.

The June 16 press release from the Louisa County Sheriff's Office did not specifically identify what led authorities to launch the operation, but did stress it "was based upon information and reports regarding child abuse

and endangerment."

Complaints about the ministry and camp have been received in the past, according to the June 17 Gazette article. In that story, Marquardt said his office had received calls of intoxicated subjects and children being near them.

In the same article, Fredonia Mayor R. Samuel Braden said the house at 1101 5th Avenue had been discussed at a city council meeting. Braden said the program was controversial and many residents had raised concerns.

Braden said the initial operation had only involved around 20 people, but later paperwork filed with the city showed 51 were now in the program, over twice the number approved by the city; and there was not enough staff to supervise everyone.

Continuing in the article, Braden said someone from the ministry had once broke into another person's house and started an altercation because he was drunk. Braden had gone on to explain in the article that racial motivations were behind the conflicts with the local Burmese community, among the largest in the state; and that racist graffiti had been left in the park telling the Burmese to go

home.

"We have struggled with racism directed at the Burmese and that has clouded a lot of discussion here. There have been legitimate concerns as well in the issues of supervision and maintenance that David (Nuam) may have gotten himself in over his head," Braden was quoted in the article.

According to community and other local leaders, many of the Chin Burmese who now live in the Columbus Junction area settled here because they were able to find work in the local Tyson Food Plant.

Following the initial settlement of Burmese, it was learned Arthur E. Carson, the first Christian missionary to the Myanmar Chin state, had been born in Columbus City, cementing the community's ties to the area.

Meanwhile, Brian Thye, Louisa County sanitarian and zoning administrator, was also contacted June 19 and asked if either of his offices were involved in the continuing investigation because of possible environmental health or zoning issues.

Thye indicated he was involved but declined to provide any specific information and referred all questions to Marquardt.



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